Pelagic Fishing Tournaments and Clubs in Hawaii

Jennifer Schultz, Daniel Curran,
Joseph O'Malley, Paul Dalzell,
and Adam Griesemer

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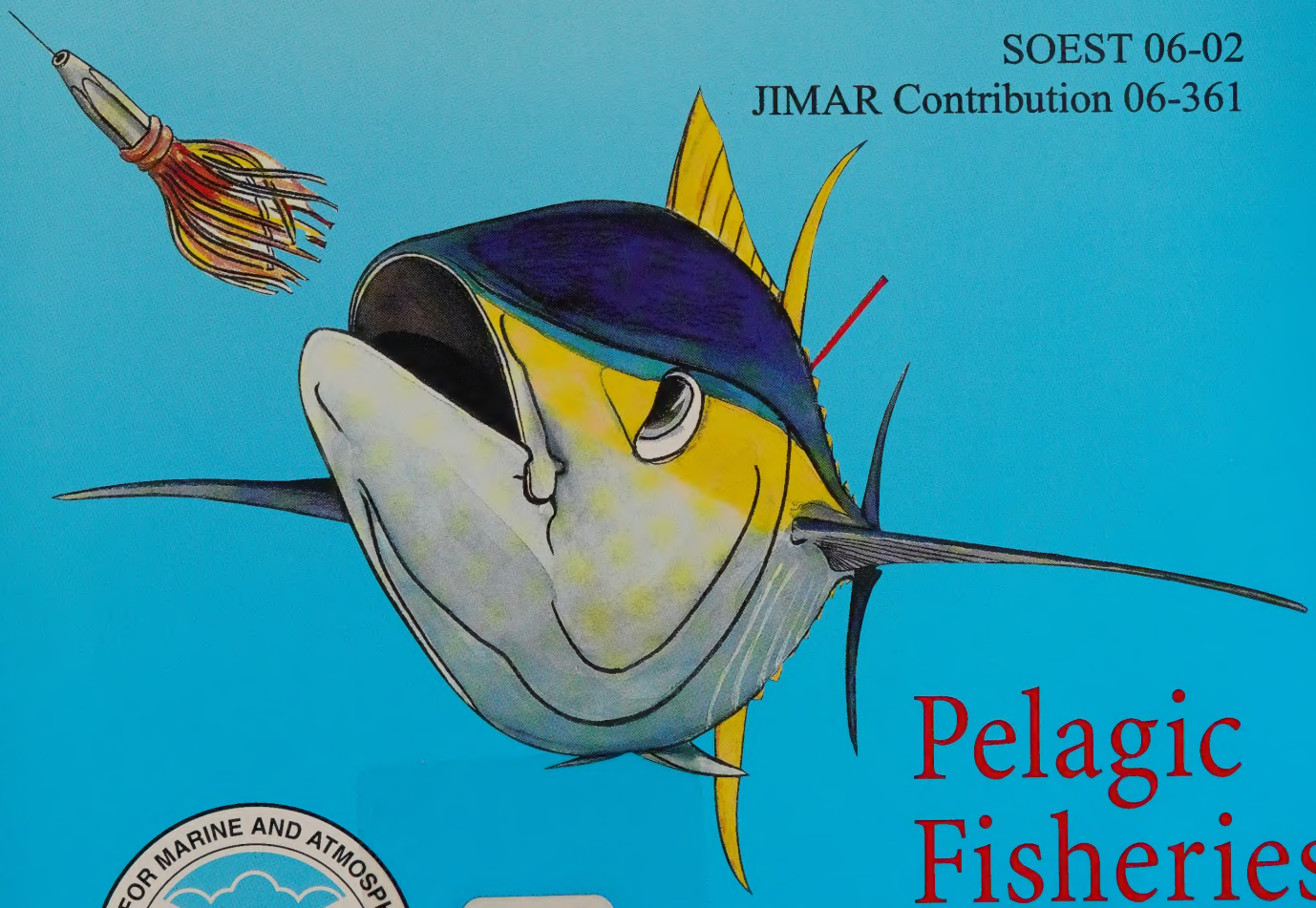

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Jennifer Schultz, Joseph O'Malley, and Adam Griesemer
Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research
1000 Pope Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96833

Daniel Curran
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Paul Dalzell
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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ABSTRACT

It is estimated that over 144 thousand residents and visitors engage in recreational pelagic fishing in Hawaii each year. Because the state does not require a license or catch and effort reporting for recreational fishing, it is difficult to describe this fishery. However, subsets of recreational fishermen participate in fishing clubs and tournaments, and the organizations and clubs that run recreational tournaments keep records on catch and nominal fishing effort; some have done so for over 40 years. There are at least 22 major tournaments, run by 13 clubs and 5 organizations throughout the state of Hawaii. This report provides a list and brief description of those that were active in the year 2003.

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1. INTRODUCTION

For most early Hawaiians, fishing was a necessary occupation, a means to obtain food. For the chiefs, however, whose livelihood was not dependent upon their own fishing success, fishing was also a sport. Pelagic fishing was considered "the sport of kings," because only the wealthiest could afford the required gear and crew, and the gamble of returning from a fishing trip empty-handed. In general, recreational pelagic fishing was unpredictable and challenging given that 1) locating the fish was dependent upon the presence of birds and flotsam, 2) the fish, once located, were capable of outdistancing the fisherman's canoe, and 3) only a small fraction of the hooked fish were ever boated (Newman 1970).

According to MacKellar (1968), a typical recreational pelagic fishing trip began with the request of the chief. His po'o lawai'a (head fisherman) would prepare a crew, several canoes, and the gear required for a day of pelagic fishing. The po'o lawai'a was esteemed for his knowledge of the weather, the stars, and using birds as indicators for schools of fish. He could find his bearings using the position of different mountain peaks even when far out at sea. He trained the crew to manipulate their canoes in concert at his direction. Lastly, but perhaps most important to ancient Hawaiians, he was expected to read omens in dreams and clouds and maintain the benevolence of the gods of fishing. The expedition would start before dawn, assembling in silence to avoid offending the gods (MacKellar 1968). (Even today it is considered bad luck to ask on the day of a trip, "Are you going fishing?") First the ancient Hawaiians fished for bait, either opelu or aku. It was likely that after catching bait, they fished as close to the source of the bait as possible to ensure the bait were still alive when used and to enable quick resupply. To direct where they would put out their lines, they looked for floating objects where fish were likely to aggregate, or birds circling over the water, possibly hunting a school of fish (Newman 1970). Their main target was ahi (*Thunnus albacares)*, considered the gamest fish (Titcomb 1972). "Ahi" literally means fire in Hawaiian, the name deriving from the smoke and burn marks created by the fishing line as it paid out against the canoe's gunwales after a yellowfin tuna was hooked. It was not uncommon to catch other pelagic fish as well, such as marlins, mahimahi, or ono (MacKellar 1968).

Modern day recreational pelagic fishing is very different from traditional Hawaiian techniques. Motorboats have replaced canoes, and electronic fish finders complement the use of birds and flotsam. Bait is now obtained by fishing near Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) placed throughout Hawaiian waters by the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources. Many fishers avoid using live bait altogether, relying on trolling with artificial lures, motoring at speeds of up to 9 knots with lines trailing behind. These lures consist of a chrome or polyurethane head, hook(s) and a "skirt" or brightly colored plastic streamers. Though recreational pelagic fishing is still considered an expensive sport, it is now accessible to a wider public with boat owners inviting their family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers along on fishing trips.

Table 1. Selected characteristics of Hawaii resident anglers for 2001. State population 16 years and older. Numbers in thousands. (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2003)

Characteristic	Population Number	Percent	Anglers Number	Percent who participated	Percent of anglers
Total persons	916	100	113	12	100
Population Density of Residence					
Urban	836	91	96	12	85
Rural	80	9	17	21	15
Population Size of Residence					
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	703	77	65	9	57
1,000,000 or more	...	...	...	...	...
250,000 to 999,999	703	77	65	9	57
50,000 to 249,999	...	...	...	...	...
Outside of MSA	214	23	48	23	57
Sex					
Male	443	48	88	20	78
Female	473	52	25	5	22
Age (years)					
16 to 17	27	3	...	...	...
18 to 24	90	10	*11	*13	*10
25 to 34	157	17	20	13	18
35 to 44	194	21	27	14	24
45 to 54	169	18	31	18	28
55 to 64	107	12	*12	*11	*11
65 years and older	172	19	*9	*5	*8
Ethnicity					
Hispanic	71	8	20	28	17
Non-Hispanic	845	92	93	11	83
Race					
White	277	30	37	13	33
Black	14	1	...	...	...
All Others	625	68	74	12	66
Annual Household Income					
Under $10,000	44	5	*7	*6	*6
$10,000 to $19,000	55	6	*9	*8	*8
$20,000 to $29,000	80	9	*9	*8	*8
$30,000 to $39,000	79	9	*12	*11	*11
$40,000 to $49,000	72	8	*7	*6	*6
$50,000 to $74,000	150	16	19	17	17
$75,000 to $99,999	88	10	*13	*12	*12
$100,000 or more	107	12	21	18	18
Not reported	241	26	*16	*14	*14
Education					
11 years or less	105	11	*8	*7	*7
12 years	307	33	34	30	30
1 to 3 years	244	27	40	36	36
4 years of college or more	261	28	30	27	27

*Estimate based on small sample size.

... Sample size too small to report data reliably.

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses. Percent who participated shows the percent of each row's population who participated in the activity named by the column (the percent of those living in urban areas who fished, etc.) Remaining percent columns show the percent of each column's participants who are described by the row heading (the percent of anglers who lived in urban areas, etc.).

In a recent survey of Hawaii recreational fishing (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2003) it was estimated that in 2001 over 144,000 residents and nonresidents spent a total of 2,567,000 "days" fishing at sea with roughly $93 million dollars in related expenditures. According to the survey, the estimated 113,000 resident anglers (salt and freshwater) make up 12% of the general adult population in Hawaii or 20% of males and 5% of the females. It is estimated that 78% of anglers are male. Additional selected characteristics of resident anglers are shown in Table 1. These estimates are based on the phone responses of 1,077 initial screenings and 353 detailed interviews of those determined to be active or likely sportspersons. The small number of fishers interviewed limits interpretation of these statistics.

There are few studies that provide in depth description of the demographics and characteristics of recreational fishermen in Hawaii. Glazier (1999) provides a summary review of 45 noncommercial fisheries papers. Several published studies comment on the economic impact of recreational fishing (Adams 1978, Cooper et al. 1978, Hoffman and Yamauchi 1972, Kasaoka 1989, Maharaj 1997, Samples et al. 1983) while others describe charter boat patrons and workers (Cooper and Adams 1978, O'Malley and Glazier 2001, Samples and Schug 1985, U.S. NMFS 1983a/b, Walker 1997).

A well-studied topic in Hawaii fisheries is the question of what constitutes "recreational." By law, anyone selling at least one fish a year is considered commercial. However, many people fishing on the weekend for fun may sell part of their catch if there is a large amount, helping to recover trip expenses (Hamilton 1998a/b, Hamilton and Huffman 1997, Walker 1996). For the purposes of this paper anyone participating in a tournament or club will be considered a recreational fisher unless earning regular income in such involvement (e.g., a professional tournament organizer or a charter boat captain).

Because Hawaii does not require a recreational marine fishing license, it has never systematically collected data on noncommercial fishers. This has become a concern in recent years as a perceived decline in basin-wide pelagic fish stocks may result in imposed fishing quotas or harvest allocation limits. Management decisions could be encumbered by the lack of data on recreational participation and catch. For this reason, an effort has been made in recent years to accurately describe the pelagic recreational fishery in Hawaii.

In 1999, the Pelagic Fisheries Recreational Data Task Force was formed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to collect data on recreational fishing data in Hawaii. A Pelagic Fisheries Research Program report, written by Ed Glazier (1999), was published listing the pertinent studies and surveys regarding Hawaii's recreational fishery. The Task Force recommended that additional data be collected in the form of a creel survey.

In 2001, the National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) program was reintroduced to Hawaii after a twenty-year absence. The MRFSS program had been initiated in Hawaii in 1979, but lasted only three years. The results from the early survey were not published. The MRFSS program consists of a random telephone survey and an in-person creel survey. The telephone survey examined fishing activities of household members, including the number of fishing trips taken, if any, the modes and methods of fishing,

and related expenditures. The creel survey is an intercept survey performed at the boat ramps and small boat harbors throughout the state. Shoreline and boat fishers are asked questions regarding their catch, their methods of fishing and the area in which they fished. Whenever possible, the fish caught are inspected, identified and measured. Data from the two surveys provide estimates of total nominal fishing effort and catch (State of Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources website, www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/surveys/background.htm).

The MRFSS program has been well received and is expected to be the source of the majority of recreational catch and effort data starting in 2001. But the nature of pelagic fisheries requires long-term study to detect trends that may occur over several years or decades. To discover what historical data was available, the Pelagic Fisheries Research Program funded the Recreational Fisheries Metadata project in 2000. The focus of this project was to document and compile, into database format, sources of Hawaii's recreational fishing information from the past fifty years.

At the outset, information was compiled from previous reports, surveys and studies, both published and unpublished, including "grey" literature such as government reports. Though this literature provided background information on the economics and characterization of recreational fishing, it did not provide catch and effort data. Local newspapers and fishing publications, such as the Hawaii Fishing News, provide some information on catches by recreational fishermen. However, the data is provided voluntarily by fishermen, usually after an outstanding catch, and thus is irregularly reported and is biased toward the catches of large fish. The best source for catch and effort data was found to be local fishing tournaments.

In general, tournaments bring recreational fishermen together in a competition (for cash or prizes) to catch the biggest or most fish of designated species. Tournaments are held throughout the year in Hawaii, generally over 1-3 days. The rules and procedures are unique to each tournament, but most competitions begin at 6 or 7 in the morning with a "shotgun" start. (Generally, no fishing and no live fish are allowed on the boat before this time.) Fishing generally lasts for 8 hours each day. Tagged or boated fish are "called in" to a tournament radio operator throughout the day. Some tournaments have "round-ups" in which boats are required to report in their catch and location at a specified time. Large fish are brought in to port immediately after they are boated to prevent loss of weight and to make room on the boat for more fish. The day culminates at a specified time with a call for "stop fishing." In some tournaments, boats that are "hooked-up" prior to the call to stop fishing are allowed to continue to fight their fish until it is landed, released, or lost, thus adding to the excitement of the event. All fish are then brought into the harbor to be weighed in by an IGFA weigh-master or tournament committee member. Winners are awarded with money or trophies at the end of the tournament.

Tournaments can be classified into two categories, those sponsored by clubs and those run by professional organizers. Fishing clubs throughout the state hold tournaments that are for club members only and fundraising tournaments, which are open to the general public. The fundraising tournaments are considered non-profit and are held to finance the club's activities and sponsored charities. The second category of tournaments, those professionally run by for-profit organizers, are generally the larger tournaments in terms of total purse but not necessarily in terms of number of participants. The rules for professionally organized tournaments conform

to International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules, sometimes with minor modifications. IGFA regulations were created to promote ethical competition and to provide uniform guidelines for establishing world game fish records. They specify hook, line, leader or fighting requirements; a detailed list of rules can be downloaded at www.igfa.org/rulebook/rules.pdf. Club sponsored tournaments often invoke "jungle rules," which means certain guidelines such those for gear and fighting requirements are relaxed.

Tournament participants can be classified as local residents (from that island), neighbor island residents, and mainland or international visitors. Club sponsored tournaments cater to local participants whereas professional tournaments tend to attract mainland and international visitors. Professional tournament hosts are likely to organize optional side or daily entry events wherein fees are paid to participate in additional competitions, such as largest fish of the day. Clubs, on the other hand, generally leave any side bets up to individual participants.

The clubs and organizers keep detailed records of the number of participants and fish caught in each tournament. Local fishing clubs may also record an individual member's catch throughout the year. Though the percentage of recreational anglers that participate in tournaments or clubs is unknown, club records provide an insight into the scope and scale of sport fishing.

There are many tournaments and clubs throughout the state, but an official listing does not exist. The following is a description of Hawaii's largest pelagic fishing tournaments, clubs, and some affiliated organizations in existence in 2003. All information is specific to 2003 unless otherwise noted. Although the list is not exhaustive, we have tried to include the most influential parties for which we could establish current contact information. The members and participants of clubs and tournaments and those who run the affiliated organizations are excellent sources of information regarding recreational pelagic fishing. They are able to provide fishing data and act as liaisons to anglers. Questions regarding the potential impact of management decisions upon recreational fishers could be effectively directed to these individuals.

2. HISTORY OF PELAGIC FISHING CLUBS AND TOURNAMENTS IN HAWAII

Pelagic fishing has long been a popular sport in Hawaii, but participation in fishing clubs and tournaments is a relatively new practice. The oldest and largest fishing clubs in the state are the Hawaii Yacht Club, which was founded in 1901 by King David Kalakaua, and the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club. The initial focus of the nineteen founding members was yachting, not fishing. The club only accepted membership from the most elite, powerful businessmen and political leaders. In the 1930s, the original Hawaii Yacht Club expanded by incorporating two less exclusive clubs, the Cruising Club of Hawaii and the Honolulu Yacht Club. In 1957, the Hawaii Yacht Club relocated from Pearl Harbor to the then newly created Ala Wai Harbor. With additional docking facilities at the Ala Wai Harbor, the membership grew to include powerboats and a fleet of recreational fishing boats. Today, the Hawaii Yacht Club's activities have expanded to include recreational fishing and membership includes more than 1500 people, including residents and frequent visitors to the island. The club sponsors the oldest, and once largest, wahine fishing tournament (The Senoritas' Jackpot), a joint tournament with the Waikiki Yacht Club (Ho'olea Tournament), and several members-only tournaments (e.g., President's Day, Offshore, 3-Day, King Kam, and Cockeyed Mayor tournaments).

The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club, in contrast, was founded as a fishing club. It was established in 1909 and originally located in Honolulu. It is one of the oldest purely fishing oriented clubs in the nation. The club relocated to Kona, Hawaii in the 1960s. Currently, the club operates from a newly constructed clubhouse at the Honokohau Harbor. Membership includes more than 300 residents and frequent visitors to Kona.

These and other fishing clubs historically sponsored small tournaments, mainly catering to their members. The first large scale fishing tournament was the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT). It was founded by Peter Fithian, then manager of the Kona Inn, as a way to attract big-game fishermen to Kailua-Kona. At the time, due to discrepancies in fishing records, Hawaii was not known as a blue marlin fishing mecca. The HIBT exposed Kona to the world as a premiere fishing location for world record size marlin. The first tournament was held in 1959 and drew 22 teams. By 1961, there were 79 teams, and the number of charter boats in the Honokohau Harbor on the Kona coast had increased to meet the demand. From the beginning, the tournament's unique format was established—it is a five-day event held during August with teams of anglers fishing from a different charter boat each day and trophies, not cash, awarded to the winners. Local volunteers run the tournament, however, there is now a professional tournament organizer to oversee the planning. In the early years of the tournament, prizes were awarded on the basis of the number and size of fish caught. In 1986 the tournament also began offering points for tagged and released billfish and in 1994 the tournament was won for the first time solely on the basis of tag and release points. Today, the vast majority of billfish caught are tagged and released. The number of participants in the HIBT has decreased in recent years with only 20 teams taking part in 2003, presumably due to the large number of tournaments offering cash prizes.

Today, the majority of fishing events are so-called "jackpot" tournaments, offering cash prizes to winners, but in 1977 only one major event in Hawaii allowed participants to compete for money. The Lahaina Jackpot, run by volunteers at the Lahaina Yacht Club, is Hawaii's oldest jackpot tournament. Dave Rockett and Phil Cole, who obtained a legal decision declaring that a jackpot tournament would not be considered gambling, which is illegal in Hawaii, founded the event. The first tournament involved 64 boats and was held on October 28, 1977 with a 559¾ pound black marlin the winning fish. The tournament, which operates under IGFA rules, is historically held over the Halloween weekend and draws anglers from throughout the islands and the mainland U.S. In 1992, tag and release points were introduced to the tournament. The jackpot, however, can only be won by the angler with the largest weighed fish. Prizes, such as reels, are given to those who win by points rather than fish size. The jackpot was historically $25,000, but the amount of prize money has fluctuated in recent years due to decreased participation. Though the number of participating boats grew to 160 in the 1990s, increased ship traffic in Lahaina Harbor apparently has caused a decline in participation. Cruise ships entering the harbor for the annual Halloween festivities have forced the tournament to be held on different dates. In 2003 participation had decreased to only 38 boats.

3. TOURNAMENTS

The following list provides an overview of the largest pelagic fishing tournaments throughout the state in the year 2003. All information is specific to 2003 unless otherwise stated. The tournaments are constantly evolving and the number of boats, prize money, dates, and rules are likely to continue to change in coming years. Tournaments that are only open to club members are listed under the section entitled Clubs. A summary of the tournaments is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. A summary of fishing tournaments held in Hawaii and the most recent available information on fees and number of boats participating.

Tournament	Type	Entry Fee	Rules	Participants	Island	Boats	Held in 2003?
Rolex	Professional	$4,800	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	40	No
HIBT	Professional	$3,800	IGFA	International	Hawaii	20-80	Yes
WBC Heavy Tackle	Professional	$3,000	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	10	No
Skins Marlin Derby	Professional	$3,000	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	20	Yes
Maui Jim Championship	Professional	$3,000	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	6	Yes
HIBT PorAm	Professional	$2,800	IGFA	International	Hawaii	20	No
Big Island Invitational	Professional	$2,700	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	20	Yes
World Cup	Professional	$2,400	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii		No
Okoe Bay Rendezvous	Professional	$2,000	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	15	Yes
Marlin Magic	Professional	$2,000	IGFA	Local	Hawaii		Yes
Summer Slam	Professional	$1,500	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii		Yes
Firecracker Open	Professional	$1,000	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	40	Yes
WBC Light Tackle	Professional	$900	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	10	No
WBC Ko Olina	Professional	$900	IGFA	Mainland	Oahu	10	Yes
WBC Shootout	Professional	$800	IGFA	Mainland	Hawaii	10	No
Lahaina Jackpot	Club	$750	IGFA	Mixture	Maui	40-160	Yes
Hanapa'a	Club	$625	Jungle	Local	Oahu		Yes
Rock n' Reel	Club	$500	IGFA	Local	Hawaii		Yes
Senorita's	Club	$350	Jungle	Local	Oahu	35	Yes
Lahaina Wahine	Club	$350	IGFA	Local	Maui	40	Yes
Keehi Pure Jackpot	Club	$350	Jungle	Local	Oahu	35	Yes
Ho'olea	Club	$350	Jungle	Local	Oahu	60	Yes
Kona Classic	Professional	$350	Jungle	Mixture	Hawaii	40	Yes
Huggo's Wahine	Professional	$350	Jungle	Mixture	Hawaii	80	Yes
Ahi Fever	Club	$325	Jungle	Local	Hawaii	200+	Yes
Honokohau	Professional	$200	IGFA	Local	Hawaii		Yes
Pearl Harbor	Club	$100	Jungle	Local	Oahu		Yes
Hilo Trollers Labor Day	Club	$80	Jungle	Club members	Hawaii	40	Yes
Hilo Trollers Wahine	Club	$40	Jungle	Club members	Hawaii	20	Yes
Hilo Trollers Monthly	Club	$40	Jungle	Club members	Hawaii	20	Yes
Hawaii Yacht Club Monthly	Club	$15	Jungle	Club members	Oahu	10	Yes
Rainbow	Club	NA*	Jungle	Local	Kauai	30	No
Port Allen	Club	NA	Jungle	Local	Kauai	40	No
Kikiaola	Club	NA	Jungle	Local	Kauai	20	No

*NA= Information was not available.

3.1 Oahu

Senoritas Jackpot Fishing Tournament
Hawaii Yacht Club
1739C Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 949-4622 ext. 10
www.hawaiiyachtclub.org
Location: Ala Wai Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: April 26-27
Number of boats: 20
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 17

The Senoritas tournament is a wahine tournament; anglers are limited to women. It is considered a "loose rules" tournament with a combination of IGFA and jungle rules. There are no restrictions on line class or length of leader, the fish must be fought from the chair if one is present, and no mutilated fish are allowed. Only hookups of marlin are required to be reported. The minimum qualifying weights are marlin 200 lbs., spearfish and sailfish 25 lbs., ahi 20 lbs., mahimahi 20 lbs., and ono 20 lbs. The anglers catching the largest of each of the five flagfish split the jackpot. Other awards are given for the greatest total weight of all qualifying fish and the most tagged and released fish. The optional entry purse is awarded for the largest flagfish of the day.

Ahi Fever Fishing Tournament
Waianae Boat Fishing Club
PO Box 821
Waianae, HI 96792
www.wbfc.net
(808) 696-3399
Location: Waianae Boat Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: June 14-15
Number of boats: 200
Entry fee: $325 for 5 anglers, extra participants $25
Number of years held: 6

The Ahi Fever Fishing Tournament is a non-profit, jungle rules tournament and is run by the Waianae Boat Fishing Club for local anglers. It is the largest tournament (in number of participants) in the state. No tournament was held in 2002 and in 2003 the number of boats was limited to 200, instead of the usual 260. Some boats were allowed to leave from the Ko Olina Marina this year due to the condition of the Waianae Harbor, which could not accommodate larger, moored boats. Lures, live bait, and dead bait are all allowed but no live bait is allowed on the boats before the start of fishing each day. All fish must be called in, providing information on the fish species and an estimated weight. Upon arriving at the harbor, one team member must pick up their catch card and proceed to the weigh-in station. The minimum weights are ahi 25 lbs., marlin 50 lbs., mahimahi 25 lbs., and ono 15 lbs. Prizes are awarded daily for the four largest ahi, two largest marlin, two largest mahimahi, and two largest ono. Additional daily prizes are awarded for a clean sweep (catching all four

flagfish—ono, mahimahi, ahi and marlin in one day), largest otaru over 20 lbs., and the "lucky whitewash" (randomly chosen from the teams who have not weighed in a fish). The grand prizes awarded are for the largest ahi of the tournament, the greatest total weight of ahi, and for any flagfish (ahi, marlin, mahimahi, or ono) beating the tournament record. A total of $65,000 in cash prizes was awarded in 2003; 100% of the entry fee was awarded as prizes. The Waianae Boat Fishing Club earns money for charities and its club by selling advertising in its tournament programs. There is no official awards ceremony, although a concurrent Ho'olaulea is held at the harbor.

North Shore Hanapa'a Tournament

North Shore Hanapa'a Club (this club convenes only to organize the tournament)
67-202 Kuhi Street
Waialua, HI 96791
Location: Hale'iwa Small Boat Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: June 18, 19, 20
Number of boats: 48
Entry fee: $625 for 4 anglers, extra participants $150
Number of years held: 20

The North Shore Hanapa'a Tournament is a non-profit, jungle rules tournament; however, no bait is allowed, and all fish must be caught using lures. All teams are local, though teams come from throughout Oahu and are allowed to tie up at the Haleiwa Harbor overnight. All fish must be called in with the species and an estimated weight. The minimum weights are marlin 50 lbs., ahi 50 lbs., mahimahi 15 lbs., and ono 15 lbs. Prizes are awarded daily for the largest flagfish of the day (marlin, ahi, mahimahi, and ono). Tournament prizes include the largest flagfish of the tournament, the first clean sweep, and the five teams with the highest overall total weights of qualifying fish. The smallest fish are often weighed in aggregate. Five hundred dollars of each entry fee is applied to the purse, and the number of boats participating determines the amount given to the teams with the highest total weights. The weigh-ins are a big draw for the community and a tent is erected for the crowd that amasses to watch. There is an awards banquet the following night featuring a poke contest, with an award given to the best tasting poke, a traditional Hawaiian dish made of raw fish.

Pearl Harbor Tournament

Location: Waianae Boat Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: June 28
Number of boats: 75
Entry fee: $100 for 5 anglers
Number of years held: 10

The Pearl Harbor Tournament is a non-profit, jungle rules tournament. It is a trolling only tournament; no baiting is allowed. The maximum number of boats allowed is 75. The participants are local, but one member of each team must work at Pearl Harbor, either as a military or civilian employee. All fish must be called in, with the species and an estimated weight. Prizes are awarded for the 15 largest flagfish, with the largest flagfish winning 30% of the purse.

Pure Jackpot
Keehi Boat Club
4 Sand Island Access Road
P.O. Box 44
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808)841-7271
Location: Keehi Boat Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: April 5
Number of boats: 35
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 5

The Keehi Boat Club's Pure Jackpot Tournament is a non-profit, local tournament. Awards are given for the four largest fish of the tournament. Side entries are awarded for the largest flagfish and for the "fish of the day." The total purse was $6,550.

Pure Jackpot Team Challenge
Keehi Boat Club
Location: Keehi Boat Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: July 26-27
Number of boats: 6 teams
Entry fee: $700
Number of years held: 2

Three boats fish as a team in this non-profit, local tournament. A $,3600 purse was given to the highest total weight.

World Billfish Challenge Ko Olina Tournament
World Billfish Challenge Hawaii
(808) 680-7680 ext. 300
www.wbchawaii.com
Location: Ko Olina Marina
Date of tournament in 2003 August 1-3
Number of boats: 6
Entry fee: $900 for 4 anglers, additional participants $300 each
Number of years held: 3

The World Billfish Challenge Ko Olina Tournament is an IGFA tournament for all anglers participating in the World Billfish Series. It is a modified IGFA tournament for others, i.e., non-IGFA anglers may forgo fighting of fish in the fighting chair. It is run for profit and the anglers come from the mainland and neighbor islands to participate. Only marlin and ahi qualify for this tournament and the minimum weights are 300 lbs. and 50 lbs., respectively. This is a point tournament with one point per pound of each qualifying fish awarded at weigh in and 300 points awarded for each tagged and released marlin. A portion of the entry fee is awarded to the team with the most points. "Daily" or "side" entry fees are optional and awards are given for the most points, the largest marlin, and the largest ahi of the day. There is a daily "pau hana" (after work) party and an awards banquet on the last day of fishing. Points in this tournament may be used toward the World Billfish Series. The World Billfish

Challenge Hawaii has put on three additional tournaments in past years in Kona—a light tackle tournament, a heavy tackle tournament, and a "shootout."

Ho'olea Fishing Tournament
Hawaii Yacht Club/Waikiki Yacht Club (see below)
1739C Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 949-4622 ext. 10
www.hawaiiyachtclub.org
Location: Ala Wai Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: August 30-September 1
Number of boats: 39
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 17

The Ho'olea is cohosted by the Waikiki and Hawaii Yacht Clubs and is a Maui Jim Series tournament. The points earned in this tournament may be applied to the series totals if IGFA rules are followed. It is considered a "loose rules" tournament with a combination of IGFA and jungle rules. There are no restrictions on line class or length of leader; the fish must be fought from the chair if one is present and no mutilated fish are allowed. Only hookups of marlin are required to be reported. The minimum qualifying weights are marlin 200 lbs., spearfish and sailfish 25 lbs., ahi 20 lbs., mahimahi 20 lbs., and ono 20 lbs. The anglers catching the largest of each of the five flagfish split the jackpot. Other awards are given for the greatest total weight of all qualifying fish and the most tagged and released fish. Optional entry fees are awarded to the angler catching the largest flagfish of the day. The total jackpot winnings were 100% of the entry fees, $13,650.

3.2 Maui

Lahaina Jackpot Fishing Tournament
Lahaina Yacht Club
835 Front Street
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761
(808) 661-0191
Location: Lahaina Marina
Date of tournament in 2003: July 26-28
Number of boats: 58
Entry fee: $750
Number of years held: 26

The Lahaina Jackpot was traditionally held in October to coincide with the annual Halloween festivities. In recent years, however, cruise boats have a scheduled stop in Lahaina at that time, which forced the tournament to choose a different date and a subsequent decline in participation. The tournament is non-profit and run by volunteers from the Lahaina Yacht Club. It generally draws participants from Maui and the neighboring islands and IGFA rules are used. The "jackpot," usually $25,000, is given for the largest fish. In 2003, due to the small number of boats and the difficulty in obtaining sponsors, the jackpot was $21,500. Awards for greatest total weight and largest flagfish are also given. Tagged fish count for

200 points toward total weight. The points earned in this tournament can be used to compete in the "Maui Jim Series," a series of seven tournaments in which points are awarded for each qualifying fish; anglers with the highest points are invited to fish at the Maui Jim Tournament. An awards banquet is held on the Monday after the tournament.

Lahaina Wahine Fishing Tournament
Lahaina Yacht Club
835 Front Street
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761
(808) 661-0191
Best Contact: Donnell Tate
Location: Lahaina Marina
Date of tournament in 2003: July 22
Number of boats: 40
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 25

This local women's tournament is held on the Tuesday prior to the Jackpot tournament. All team members must be women. The tournament is non-profit and run by volunteers from the Lahaina Yacht Club. Participants are local and IGFA rules are used. A jackpot is awarded for the largest fish, greatest total weight, and largest flagfish. Tagged fish count for 200 points toward total weight. An awards banquet is held in conjunction with the Thursday night captain's meeting for the Lahaina Jackpot tournament.

3.3 Hawaii

Honokohau Marina New Year's Day Tournament
Charter Desk
74-381 Kealakehe Pwky.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-5735
www.charterdesk.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: January 1
Number of boats: 38
Entry fee: $200
Number of years held: 2

This tournament is held annually on New Year's Day. All of the entry fees go to the purse. Awards are given for the three largest of each of the four flagfish.

Kona Classic
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor

Date of tournament in 2003: June 28-29
Number of boats: 48
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 7

The 2003 Kona Classic had the biggest participation ever for this event in terms of teams. The tournament attracts local anglers, some from neighbor islands, and some from the mainland. It is unique on the Big Island because small, privately owned boats compete against charter boats. Modified jungle rules are used and awards are given for the biggest flagfish. Optional dailies are also available for the largest fish of each day and the largest marlin of the tournament. An awards banquet is held the last night of the tournament and a total of $40,000 in cash prizes was awarded. The points earned in this tournament can be used toward the Maui Jim Series.

World Cup Blue Marlin Championship
Charter Desk (Hawaii host)
74-381 Kealakehe Pkwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-5735
Best Contact: Kathy Bakke
Location: Worldwide
Date of tournament in 2003: July 4
Number of boats: 51 locally, 115 worldwide
Entry fee: $2400
Number of years held: 19

The World Cup Blue Marlin Championship is a worldwide fishing tournament. It is held every year on the 4th of July, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., regardless of time zone. Anglers in Hawaii compete against those in Bermuda, Cabo San Lucas, Australia, and other locales for a single prize given for the largest blue marlin caught. Anglers from Kona won for the past five years, but in 2003 an angler from Bermuda won the jackpot of $230,000. IGFA rules are used and hook-ups must be reported. The Charter Desk runs a concurrent local tournament with daily and side entries, giving awards for the largest fish caught in Kona and for the most points. (In Kona, as marlin are caught the largest estimated size is used for the maximum weight before a fish must be released. Tagged and released marlins earn 250 points.)

Firecracker Open
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: July 5-6
Number of boats: 48
Entry fee: $1000
Number of years held: 15

The Firecracker Open is a for-profit tournament whose participants generally include anglers from neighbor islands and the mainland. Many participants fish both in this tournament and the World Cup, which is held the preceding day. Points earned in this tournament count toward the Maui Jim Series and IGFA rules apply. Only ahi, blue marlin, and black marlin qualify, earning 1 point per pound, and 250 points are awarded for each tagged and released fish. The minimum weight for ahi is 100 pounds and the minimum weight for marlin is 300 lbs. A 1,258.5 lb. blue marlin was caught in 2003, the largest ever caught in a tournament. Interestingly, because awards are given to the three teams with the highest points, the team catching the largest fish did not win the tournament. Optional dailies are awarded for the largest marlin and ahi of the day and tournament. A total of $119,130 was awarded.

Skins Marlin Derby
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Best Contact: Jody Bright
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: July 11-13
Number of boats: 20
Entry fee: $3000
Number of years held: 12

The Skins Marlin Derby is a for profit tournament run by Tropidilla Productions for anglers generally from the neighbor islands and the mainland. Blue and black marlins are the only qualifying fish. The minimum weight is 500 lb. and 250 points can be earned for each tagged and released marlin. The Skins Marlin Derby is unique in that the purse is divided so that each day the largest marlin over 500 lbs. is awarded 1/3 of the purse, or a "skin." The total purse awarded was $118,110.

Summer Slam Tournament
Charter Desk
74-381 Kealakehe Pwky.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-5735
www.charterdesk.com
Best Contact: Kathy Bakke
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: July 16-18
Number of boats: 23
Entry fee: $1500
Number of years held: 1

The Charter Desk put on this tournament to fill the void left when the World Billfish Challenge tournaments were cancelled for 2003. It was a for-profit tournament, comprised of chartered boats and used IGFA rules. Ahi, blue marlin, and black marlin were the only qualifying fish, with minimum weights of 300 lbs. for the marlin and 100 lbs. for ahi.

Tagged and released blue and black marlins were worth 250 points. The three teams with the most points won awards. Optional entries awarded the most total points each day. An awards banquet was held on the last day of fishing.

Marlin Magic Lure Tournament
Marlin Magic (Charter boat)
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: July 19-20
Number of boats: 12
Entry fee: $2000
Number of years held:

This is a non-profit tournament run by a charter boat family, the Parkers. IGFA rules apply, but no live baiting is allowed. The only qualifying fish are blue and black marlin and the minimum weight is 400 lbs. No points are awarded for tag and release. Awards are presented for the two largest fish caught. Optional entries are given for the largest fish of the day and the tournament.

Huggo's Na Pua 'O Ke Kai Wahine Tournament
Vermillion's
P.O. Box 4129
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 329-7371
Location: Kailua Bay
Date of tournament in 2003: July 26
Number of boats: 91
Entry fee: $350
Number of years held: 8

This is the largest women's tournament in the world. It is a non-profit, local tournament that serves as a fundraiser for the Family Support Services of Hawaii. The minimum weight for marlin is 200 pounds. Prizes are awarded for the five largest marlin caught. The angler who catches the largest marlin gets to fish in the HIBT as well. There are awards for tag-and-release, and biggest ahi, ono, and mahimahi. Awards are also given to the best-decorated boat and the mother-daughter team that lands the largest fish.

Rock 'n Reel Hawaiian Open
Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
P.O. Box 3106
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 960-8399
www.hbgfc.org
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: August 2-3
Number of boats: 23
Entry fee: $500
Number of years held: 1

The Rock 'n Reel Hawaiian Open is a club run, non-profit tournament with IGFA rules. The minimum weights are 100 lbs. ahi, 300 lbs. marlin, and 25 lbs. mahimahi and ono. Two hundred and fifty points are awarded for each tagged and released blue marlin and 50 points are awarded for each tagged and released striped marlin, sailfish, or spearfish. Awards are given to the four teams with the most points. Optional entry awards are given for the largest marlin of the tournament and the most points for each day. In this inaugural year, a total of $10,350 was awarded in prizes.

Big Island Marlin Tournament
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: August 7-9
Number of boats: 18
Entry fee: $2700
Number of years held: 17

In the past, this tournament was a "most points" tournament. However, this year entry fee prizes were awarded for the largest fish. Dailies are given to the most points earned daily. Another significant change was the required use of circle hooks when fishing with live bait to promote higher survival of released fish. Over $57,000 was awarded.

Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament
Hawaiian International Billfish Association
74-425 Kealakehe Pkwy #1
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-6155
www.konabillfish.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: August 18-22
Number of boats: 20
Entry fee: $3800 for a four angler team
Number of years held: 44

The Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament is unique in its style, longevity and reputation. The oldest tournament in the state, it was instrumental in promoting Kona as the premier destination for blue marlin anglers. The tournament is unique in many respects. The HIBT draws teams (representing a club, city, or state) from around the world to participate in the five-day tournament. Instead of chartering a boat for the duration of the tournament, the teams participate in a daily boat draw in which a different charter boat is randomly chosen by each team. Points are awarded for any billfish over 300 lbs. and for ahi over 100 lbs. For fish taken on 50 lb. test line, 33.3% bonus points are awarded. One hundred bonus points are awarded for billfish weighing 500 lbs. or more and for the largest qualifying billfish of the day and the tournament. Points are also awarded for tagged and released billfish (Table 3).

Table 3. Points earned for tagged and released fish at the HIBT.

Line Test	Blue or Black Marlin	Striped Marlin or Sailfish	Spearfish
80 lb.	250	150	50
50 lb.	300	200	100

IGFA rules are enforced. Circle hooks are required when fishing with live bait. The tournament is also unique in that it is a "prestige" tournament; no money is awarded. Bronze marlin trophies are given to the three teams earning the most points for tuna and billfish, to the angler who boats the heaviest billfish, and to the male and female anglers scoring the highest points. Trophies are also given to the three captains whose anglers have earned the most points throughout the week.

Okoe Bay Rendezvous
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Best Contact: Jody Bright
Location: Okoe Bay
Date of tournament in 2003: September 5-7
Number of boats: 15
Entry fee: $2000
Number of years held: 15

Unlike other Tropidilla Productions tournaments, the Okoe Bay Rendezvous is not held out of the Honokohau Harbor in Kona. Instead, it takes place in Okoe Bay. Because of the lack of adequate docking facilities, the number of boats is limited to 15.

Maui Jim Championship
Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003:
Number of boats: 6
Entry fee:
Number of years held:

The Maui Jim Championship is an invitational tournament, with the top contenders of the Maui Jim Series competing against each other. The ten anglers and ten boats earning the most Maui Jim Series points are invited. Because many of these anglers cannot participate due to distance or time, there are wildcard positions as well. The base entry fee purse was $11,250; with side entries, the total purse was $29,700.

3.4 Tournaments Not Held in 2003

Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship
Vermillion's
P.O. Box 4129
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 329-7371
Location: Kailua Bay
Date of tournament in 2003: not held in Hawaii in 2003
Number of boats: ~40
Entry fee: $4300
Number of years held: 4

The Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship was held in Hawaii in 2000 and 2001. In 2002, the tournament was moved to Los Cabos, Baja California, Mexico. It is an invitational tournament with each two-angler team representing one of 90 qualifying tournaments from around the world. Each team draws its boat randomly for the four-day event. IGFA rules are enforced. The number of points awarded for tag and release are listed in Table 4. One hundred bonus points are awarded for the team tagging the most billfish.

Table 4. Points given for tagged and released billfish in the Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship.

Line Test	Blue or Black Marlin	Striped Marlin or Sailfish	Spearfish
80 lb.	250	75	50
50 lb.	350	150	100
30 lb.	450	200	150

Weighed fish are awarded points per pound as shown in Table 5. The minimum qualifying weights are 50 lbs. for ahi and 15 lbs. for ono and mahimahi. The catch limit per species is two per day, per team. The winning teams are awarded with prizes (e.g., Rolex watches, rods and reels) and trophies.

Table 5. Points per pound awarded for weighed fish in the Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship.

Line Test	Ahi	Ono	Mahimahi
80 lb.	1	0.5	0.5
50 lb.	1.5	1	1
30 lb.	2	1.5	1.5

World Billfish Challenge Heavy Tackle
World Billfish Challenge Hawaii
www.wbchawaii.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: not held in 2003
Number of boats: ~20
Entry fee: $5000
Number of years held: 4

The World Billfish Challenge Heavy Tackle tournament is part of the World Billfish Series (WBS) and thus a qualifying event for the WBS Grand Championship. The Heavy Tackle tournament abides by IGFA rules and permits the use of 130 lb. test. The total purse, with awards for the most points as well as individual fish, is generally over $100,000.

World Billfish Challenge Light Tackle
World Billfish Challenge Hawaii
www.wbchawaii.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: not held in 2003
Number of boats: ~10
Entry fee: $900
Number of years held: 4

Also a WBS and WBS Grand Championship qualifying tournament, the Light Tackle is restricted to 20, 30 or 50 lb. test line. All flagfish species qualify. Because this contest is particularly suited to junior anglers, a portion of the entry fees is donated to the Junior Fish Association program. Awards include prizes such as rods and reels.

World Billfish Challenge Shootout
World Billfish Challenge Hawaii
www.wbchawaii.com
Location: Honokohau Harbor
Date of tournament in 2003: not held in 2003
Number of boats: ~10
Entry fee: $1000
Number of years held: 3

Another WBS and WBS Grand Championship qualifying event, the Shootout is a total release tournament. Points are given for each tagged fish, with awards going to anglers with the most points. The winners divide 80% of the entry fee, with the other 20% going to The Billfish Foundation. They also receive a year's paid membership in the organization.

HIBT ProAm
Vermillion's
P.O. Box 4129
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 329-7371
Location: Kailua Bay
Date of tournament in 2003: not held in 2003

Number of boats: ~20
Entry fee: $2800
Number of years held: 26

This tournament was started in 1978 to complement the HIBT. Unlike the HIBT, the entry fee goes to cash prizes. Otherwise, the tournament setup is very similar to that of the HIBT.

4. CLUBS

Fishing clubs in Hawaii generally fall into two categories—those organized by and for fishers and those formed from members of already established yacht clubs. Every club organizes tournaments for their members. Some clubs have a tournament every month while others have an ongoing tournament in which points are awarded throughout the year for each fish caught. Entry fees for club tournaments are low to encourage participation and, unlike the tournaments listed above, generally 100% of the entry fees are returned to the winners. The clubs in Hawaii range in size from 60 members to over 1000. While one club, Kaneohe Yacht Club, owns its land, others rent land from harbors, use harbor meeting rooms, or meet at some other predetermined location. Most clubs do not require members to own a boat and are open to anyone with an interest in fishing.

4.1 Oahu

Waianae Boat Fishing Club
P.O. Box 821
Waianae, HI 96792
(808) 696-3399
www.wbfc.net
Number of members: 60
Year founded: 1996
Tournaments: Held monthly; $5 to participate; includes Keiki, Wahine and Ahi Fever. The Waianae Boat Fishing Club hosts the largest tournament in the state, Ahi Fever. The money raised from Ahi Fever is used to sponsor club events, such as the keiki tournament, and donated to charities such as The Boys and Girls Clubs, Na Keiki Preschool, and the Latchum Children's Trust Fund. Club members also volunteer their boats for use in memorial services, e.g., spreading the ashes of the deceased at sea. The club meets on the first Thursday of every month. Membership costs $40/year.
Other: Newsletter

Hawaii Yacht Club
1739C Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 949-4622 ext. 10
www.hawaiiyachtclub.org
Number of members: 1500
Year founded: 1901
Tournaments: Held monthly; $15 participation fee; includes President's Day, Offshore Fishing, Senorita's Jackpot, 3-Day, King Kam, Goodwill, Cockeyed Mayor, Ho'ole'a Jackpot (co-hosted with Waikiki Yacht Club), Do or Die, Apples and Oranges (co-hosted and in competition with Waikiki Yacht Club), Wahine, and Keiki.
Other: Bulletin

Waikiki Yacht Club
1599 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
(808) 949-7141
www.holoholo.org/wycnews
Number of members: 300 regular members (700 with visiting members)
Year founded: 1944
Tournaments: Held monthly; includes Off Island Rendezvous ($100/boat competing for largest fish), Ho'olea (with Hawaii Yacht Club), and Apples and Oranges (with Hawaii Yacht Club).

Kaneohe Yacht Club
44-503 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
(808) 247-4121
www.kaneoheyachtclub.com
Number of members: 790
Year founded: 1924
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30
Tournaments: Held monthly, first Saturday of each month. During each tournament club members donate a portion of their catch to be frozen. During the July tournament called "Fishermen Want to Catch the Cure Too," the entire catch is donated. The donated fish is made into fish burgers, poke, smoked marlin jerky, and clam chowder and sold at "The Cure Café," a booth manned by Kaneohe Yacht Club volunteers at the annual American Cancer Society Relay. More than $10,000 was donated to the organization from the proceeds earned at the fundraiser. There is also an annual open tournament with average of 60 boats participating at an entry fee of $250 each.

Keehi Boat Club
Keehi Small Boat Harbor
4 Sand Island Access Road
P.O. Box 44
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808)841-7271
Number of members:
Year founded: 1971
Meetings: third Thursday each month
Tournaments: Pure Jackpot, Team Challenge
Other: The club has a clubhouse built on the state harbor property. The club leases the land and, in exchange, contributes to the harbor upkeep.

Waialua Boat Club
66-961 Kaukonahu St.
Waialua, Hawaii 96791
(808) 637-3102
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at a member's house in Mililani
Number of Members: 20
Year founded: 1950s
Tournaments: Annual, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Fourth of July or "Old Futs vs. Young Punks" tournament. Fees are $25/boat + $10/boat side jackpot for randomly drawn fish. The club was started by a loosely knit group of recreational fishers from all over Oahu. This tradition is continued today in the Waialua Boat Club's annual tournament where fishermen are allowed to weigh in at various harbors on the island. The three holiday tournaments fish out of the Haleiwa Harbor.

Pearl Harbor Trollers
1902 Eames St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
(808) 621-2027
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, military affiliation
Tournaments: Year round with approximately 5 boats participating

Aiea Boat Club
98-160 Kamehameha Highway
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Number of members: 24
Year founded: 1965
Meetings: First Tuesday each month at Headquarters.
Tournaments: Held monthly. Fees are $10/boat. The jackpot is awarded to the person catching the largest randomly chosen flagfish of the month. All other fish caught are awarded points to compete in the annual running tournament for which prizes are awarded at an end-of-the-year banquet.

Oahu Big Game Fishing Club
86-630 Lualualei Homestead Road
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

Iroquois Lagoon Yacht Club
5990 Gannet Avenue
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
499-1500

Pacific Yacht Club
c/o Outdoor Recreation
15 SYS/SVRO
900 Hangar Avenue
Hickam, Hawaii 96853-5246

4.2 Maui

Lahaina Yacht Club
835 Front Street
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761
(808) 661-0191
Tournaments: Monthly plus Spring Wahine, Wahine Jackpot, and Lahaina Jackpot,

Maalea Boat and Fishing Club
P.O. Box 4070
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
(808) 879-7041
Number of members: 125
Year founded: 1947
Tournaments: Lanai Rendezvous, Keiki, Memorial Day, and Wahine; fees are $50, 50 boats participate in Lanai Rendezvous, all others average 15 boats. All of the entry fees go back into the tournament fund for prizes, t-shirts, and dinner.

Maui Trailer Boat Club
P.O. Box 762
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
(808) 579-9528
Number of members: 40
Year founded: 1976
Tournaments: Hanapa'a and Lanai Overnight; Hanapa'a hosts 75 boats at $75 entry fee

Mala Wharf Fishing and Recreation Association
P.O. Box 10487
Lahaina, Hawaii 96767
Stewart Kahan

Hana Boat and Fishing Club
P.O. Box 816
Hana, Hawaii 86713
Harbor Liaison, 248-8988

4.3 Molokai

Molokai Yacht Club
P.O. Box 88
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748
Number of members: 80
Tournaments: Annual; 15 vessels at $200 fee each

4.4 Hawaii

Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club
P.O. Box 3106
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 960-8399
www.hbgfc.org
Number of members: 300
Year founded: 1909
Tournaments: April Fools, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Rock 'n Reel, Labor Day, Junior's, and Four Flags.
Other: The HBGFC owns their own clubhouse, which is often rented out for other tournament parties in the harbor.

Hilo Trollers
P.O. Box 5707
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 974-7472
Number of members: 56
Year founded: 1975
Tournaments: Monthly tournaments, Wahine and Keiki; $40/boat with $10/boat optional entry; 70% of the entry fee goes to the 1st and 2nd largest fish and the largest flagfish. The winner of the Labor Day tournament becomes the following year's president.

Kona Mauka Trollers
P.O. Box 266
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
Donald Fujiwara, Kona Fishing Supply
(808) 326-2934

Kona Iki Trollers
P.O. Box 1221
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704
(808) 331-6209
Number of members: 70
Year founded: 1950's
Tournaments: Four main tournaments held per year; includes Fellowship, Keiki, Manu Ahi, and Wahine. Fees are $50/boat for Keiki and Wahine, others are $100/boat. All tournaments are non-profit.

Kohala Trollers
55-3095 Akoni Pule Highway
Hawi, Hawaii 96719
Donald Liu

4.5 Kauai

Port Allen Fishing Club
P.O. Box 284
Eleele, Hawaii 96705
(808) 335-5844
Tournaments: Annual open with fees at $200/boat and approximately 30 boats.

Kikiaola Westside Fishing Club
P.O. Box 986
Waimea, Hawaii 96796
(808) 337-1800

Garden Isle Trolling Club
4644 Anolani Street
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
Dr. Roger Netzer

5. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Fishing News
6650 Hawaii Kai Drive, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
(808) 395-4499
fishnews@hawaii.rr.com
The Hawaii Fishing News is said to be "the voice of Hawaii's fisherman." It contains fishing reports from recreational fishers throughout the islands, often with individual and tournament catch results. Donnell Tate and the Charter Desk publish their respective Lahaina and Honokohau Harbors' daily catch in this monthly magazine. Letters from fishermen, catch photos, and pertinent legislation announcements are commonly included. It is widely read

throughout the state and probably the best way to reach the greatest number of recreational anglers.

Charter Desk
74-381 Kealakehe Pwky.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-5735
www.charterdesk.com
Best Contact: Kathy Bakke
Year founded:
Tournaments: Honokohau Marina New Year's Day, World Cup Blue Marlin Championship, and Summer Slam
Other: The Charter Desk keeps a record of every fish weighed in at the Honokohau Harbor scales since 2000. The date, boat, fishermen, weight and a picture of the catch is saved. The Charter Desk also provides charter boat booking service, as well as organization of tournaments.

Tropidilla Productions
P.O. Box 2158
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 327-1440
www.konatournaments.com
Best Contact: Jody Bright
Year founded:
Tournaments: Kona Classic, Firecracker Open, Skins Marlin Derby, Big Island Marlin Tournament, Okoe Bay Rendezvous, and Maui Jim Championship
Other: Tropidilla is a for-profit tournament hosting organization.

Vermillion's
P.O. Box 4129
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(808) 329-7371
Year founded:
Tournaments: Huggo's Na Pua O Ke Kai Wahine Tournament, Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, PORF Shootout, and Rolex IGFA tournament, held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.
Other: The official radio room for most tournaments in Kona is in Sue Vermillion's office. Phil Parker has worked the radio for all Vermillion and Tropidilla Tournaments and is a good source for tournament information.

6. SUMMARY

Fishing clubs and tournaments are important aspects of recreational fishing, bringing together people from many disparate social and economic groups that may otherwise not interact on a regular basis. Although fishing club membership consists mainly of boat owners and fishers, it also includes family, neighbors, honorary members and others who may be more interested in the social activities organized by the club than the fishing events. Many of the professionally run

tournaments also draw anglers from around the world, enriching the local community culturally as well as economically.

It is common for fishing clubs to donate money from tournaments or manpower to various charitable causes. For example, the Kaneohe Yacht Club raises thousands of dollars annually for the American Cancer Association through the sale of fish caught at their monthly tournaments. The Waianae Boat Fishing Club sponsors a monthly harbor cleanup where participating members can earn points toward an annual competition. Tournaments, too, have a wide impact on the community. The Huggo's Wahine Tournament is a benefit for the Family Support Services of Hawaii. The local clubs often set up bleachers or a viewing area so that the public may watch the daily tournament weigh-ins, and club-sponsored award parties are often open to the public.

Tournament fishing has a large economic impact in Hawaii in terms of jobs, tourism and fish. The professionally run tournaments require many employees to coordinate registration, fishing, award ceremonies, and entertainment. Their salaries are paid in part by the entry fees of the tournament. These entry fees of $1000 or more attract affluent fishers and their families to vacation in Hawaii. Many are drawn by the incentive of participating in an enjoyable activity coupled with the possibility of winning money; several have expressed their preference for being on a boat in Kona over a casino in Vegas. Beyond the tournament competition, the catch is not of importance to these visiting fishermen, and generally, the boated fish are given to the charter boat crew to sell or eat. For local fishers, the catch is generally split among the team. If there is an abundance, the catch may be shared within their community (e.g., church, neighborhood or extended family and friends). Some may give their catch to a restaurant in exchange for a free meal or sell their catch to make up for trip costs. Fish markets often send a freezer truck to larger tournaments to buy fish after weigh-in. How the market price is affected by the large influx of tournament fish is currently unknown.

This report documents the nature and scope of club and tournament fishing in Hawaii in 2003. It is not meant to be an exhaustive summation but rather a snapshot of the recreational fishery. Like most fisheries it is constantly evolving and highly dynamic, which suggests a need for continuous monitoring. Only then may we better understand the impact of recreational fishing on the environment, culture, and economy of Hawaii.

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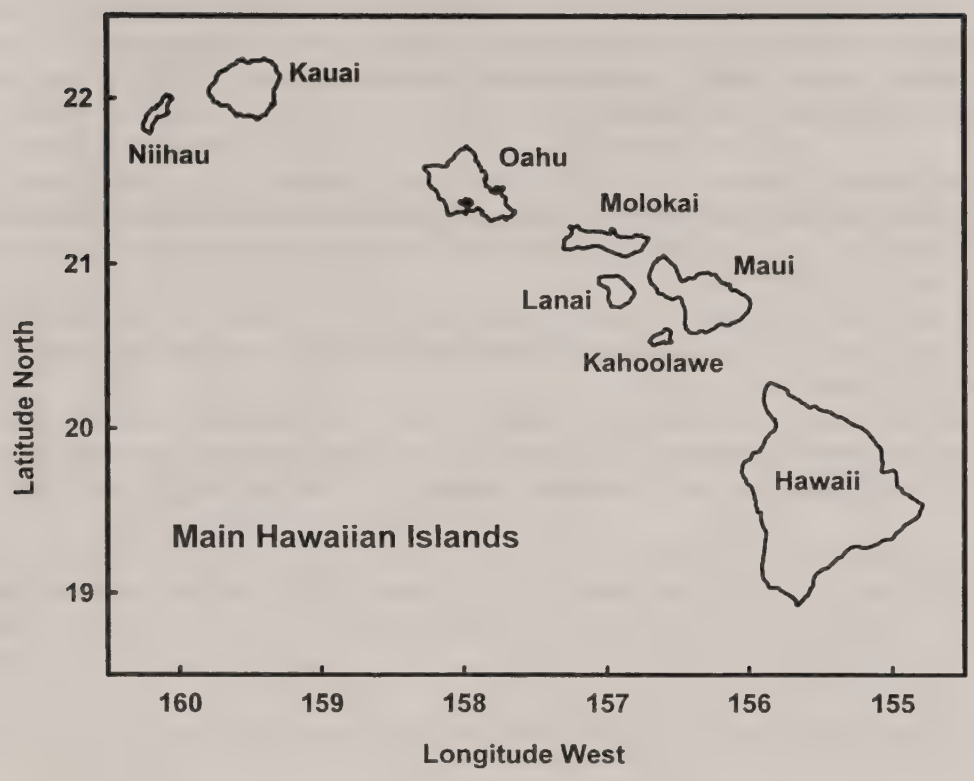

Figure 1. Map of Hawaii.

APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS, NOMENCLATURE AND ABBREVIATIONS

Ahi: Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares,* and bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus.*

Aku: Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis.*

Black marlin: *Makaira indica.*

Blue marlin: *Makaira nigricans.*

Clean sweep: The boating of all four flagfish (ahi, blue marlin, mahimahi, and ono); each fish must be of a qualifying weight.

Daily entry fee (dailies, side entry fee, optional entry fee): A set amount of money paid to compete in additional categories (e.g., largest marlin of the day) during a tournament. A daily entry fee payment is required to participate in this optional competition. The winner usually collects 90% of the total fees with 10% going to the organizer. See also, "side entry fee" and "optional entry fee."

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs): Surface buoys moored in coastal waters and maintained by the State of Hawaii to attract and concentrate aggregations of pelagic fish.

Flagfish: Ahi, ono, mahimahi, and blue marlin (sometimes listed as marlin and can include black or striped marlin as well). Refers to the flags (with colors and symbols to represent each kind of fish) flown at the mast to show which fish have been caught on the current trip.

IGFA: The International Game Fish Association has formulated rules for angling, which include precise regulations regarding equipment (such as hooks, line, leader, pole and reel) and technique (the fish must be angled without assistance and with rod in hand).

Ho'olaulea: A party or gathering often thrown concurrent with or after a tournament.

Jackpot: Prize money awarded for predetermined categories in a tournament.

Jungle rules: No gear or handling restrictions; anglers are not required to adhere to IGFA rules.

Keiki: Children.

Mahimahi: Dolphin fish, *Coryphaena hippurus.*

Maui Jim Series: A series consisting of seven tournaments in which points are awarded for each qualifying fish; anglers with the most points are invited to fish at the Maui Jim Tournament, sponsored by Maui Jim Sunglasses.

Ono: Wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri.*

Opelu: Mackerel scad, *Decapterus pinnulatus*

Otaru: A large aku (over 20 lbs.) *Katsuwonus pelamis.*

Pau hana: Literally, "finished work" in Hawaiian. Used to designate a stop to fishing or an after-fishing party.

Poke: A Hawaiian traditional dish made up of raw fish (usually ahi or aku), salt, seaweed, soy sauce and vinegar.

Po'o lawai'a: Historically, the head fisherman who would lead an expedition of pelagic fishing at the order of a Hawaiian chief.

Sailfish: *Istiophorus platypterus,* sometimes included under the category "marlin" during tournaments.

Shortbill spearfish: *Tetrapturus angustirostris,* sometimes included under the category "marlin" during tournaments.

Striped marlin: *Tetrapturus audax.*

Wahine: Woman.

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